



Kids with a Cause™  
Children's Theatre Company

ITS NOT TOO LATE  
TO JOIN OUR  
**#GIVING**  
**TUESDAY**  
**CAMPAIGN!**

[Click Here To Donate!](#)

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**CTC Giving Tuesday  
GIVES BACK!**

# JOIN US ON BROADWAY SAVE THE DATE SAT. FEB. 8th @ 8PM

This week ONLY, donate to CTC's 25th Year Anniversary and receive a COMPLIMENTARY ticket to the Broadway hit [A Wonderful World: The Louis Armstrong Musical](#) and attend our 25th Anniversary [Gala Benefit](#) on Saturday, February 8th @ 8 PM.

You can also adopt a family and DONATE YOUR SEATS to spread the joy of theater and ensure ALL are welcome. \$125 minimum donation to qualify.

Learn More!

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## Children's Theatre Company: A Year of Growth and Transformation

The "Kids with a Cause" Children's Theatre Company (CTC) celebrated 25 years in 2024. A Baha'i inspired organization, CTC has exemplified the transformative power of the arts through our robust collaboration with other Faith communities, civic groups, community leaders and social action groups - harnessing CTC's mission rooted in the belief that the **highest form of artistic expression is to be a force for social good.**



As such, in 2024 - CTC continued its mission of fostering a profound conviction in young people that through the magic of theater - children and youth can become voices of positive change and agents of healing in their communities.

In Jackson, Tennessee, a visit by **Dr. Robert Henderson, representing the National Spiritual Assembly**, brought together over 24 CTC partners and community leaders (aka *Protagonists of community building*) to learn alongside us.

By employing an asset-based (*a strength based approach*), CTC empowers communities to take ownership of their development, ensuring programs are both sustainable, spiritually centered and impactful.

This year, CTC expanded its partnerships and deepened its impact across various communities.

For now a third year and with extraordinary “**start up support**” from the National Spiritual Assembly and its Baha’i Office of Education and Schools; as well as a generous grant from the **Wayfarer Foundation; the Fraydun Foundation; the Amir & Zita Manocherian Foundation; the National Endowment for the Arts and the Posner-Wallace Foundation**; CTC Chapters have been launched and maintained in Jackson, Tennessee; Pensacola, Florida; Flint, Michigan, and its HQ in New York.



**Proven to be a cultural and educational force** - CTC has been able to build upon its established reputation **as an innovator in blending theater arts with social action and moral reasoning.**

Through our significant partnerships, our young performers and teaching artists **have served as the centerpiece in dozens of local and state-wide events** for community leaders and educators, with **each partner active highlighting their connection and commitment to CTC families**; local artists and CTC’s world-embracing vision for the betterment of society.

Beyond the stage, CTC fosters deep engagement through its Character Education Curriculum and Parent Café, where families discuss moral and spiritual principles while supporting their children’s development.

As CTC Communities look to the future, our vision remains firmly rooted in the power of the arts as a medium for social transformation- encouraging and inspiring children, youth, and their families - to work





together for the betterment of the world.

Through collaboration, reflection, and action, CTC is proving that theater is far more than entertainment—it is a catalyst for change and indeed children and youth are the most powerful agents of positive change.

*Mehr Mansuri*

*Founder/ Artistic Director*

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## BREAKING NEWS

Over the last four years, *the Children's Theatre Company*, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, ***in partnership*** with the Baha'i Office of Education & Schools, launched the Children's Theatre's **Henry Box Brown Community Mobilization Project**. This initiative, published in the prestigious Academic Journal for Applied Theatre - involved touring CTC's critically acclaimed musical **Henry Box Brown: A Musical Journey**—(a show now optioned to open on **Broadway by four-time Tony Award-winning producers**) to four pre-selected cities. The tour included the establishment of local CTC advisory boards in each community to support the creation of a CTC chapter in each city.



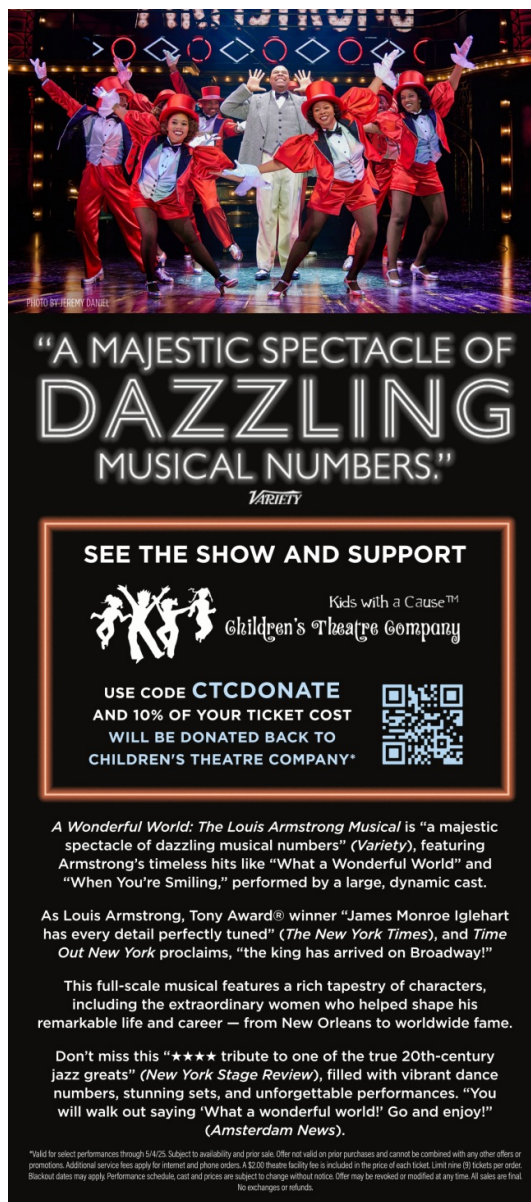
**BROADWAY PARTNERSHIP:** CTC is now turning 25 and is being recognized at a Broadway level! In response to the NSA **encouragement to expand** CTC to more locations, Broadway producers of both *Henry Box Brown*, have made an unprecedented offer to make **CTC a "Charity Partner"** and have agreed to donate a full performance of their **current Broadway show**, **A Wonderful World: The Louis Armstrong Musical** to help CTC reach its funding and

expansion goals!

**THE NEED:** CTC has selected Sat. Feb. 8th (in honor of Black History month) to host a **Performance Benefit of A Wonderful World: The Louis Armstrong Musical**, and it is now *actively seeking **Benefactors and Sponsors***.

Come and see the amazing A WONDERFUL WORLD: The Louis Armstrong Musical ON BROADWAY and support and celebrate 25 years of the Children's Theatre Company's: Kids with a Cause Programs going National.

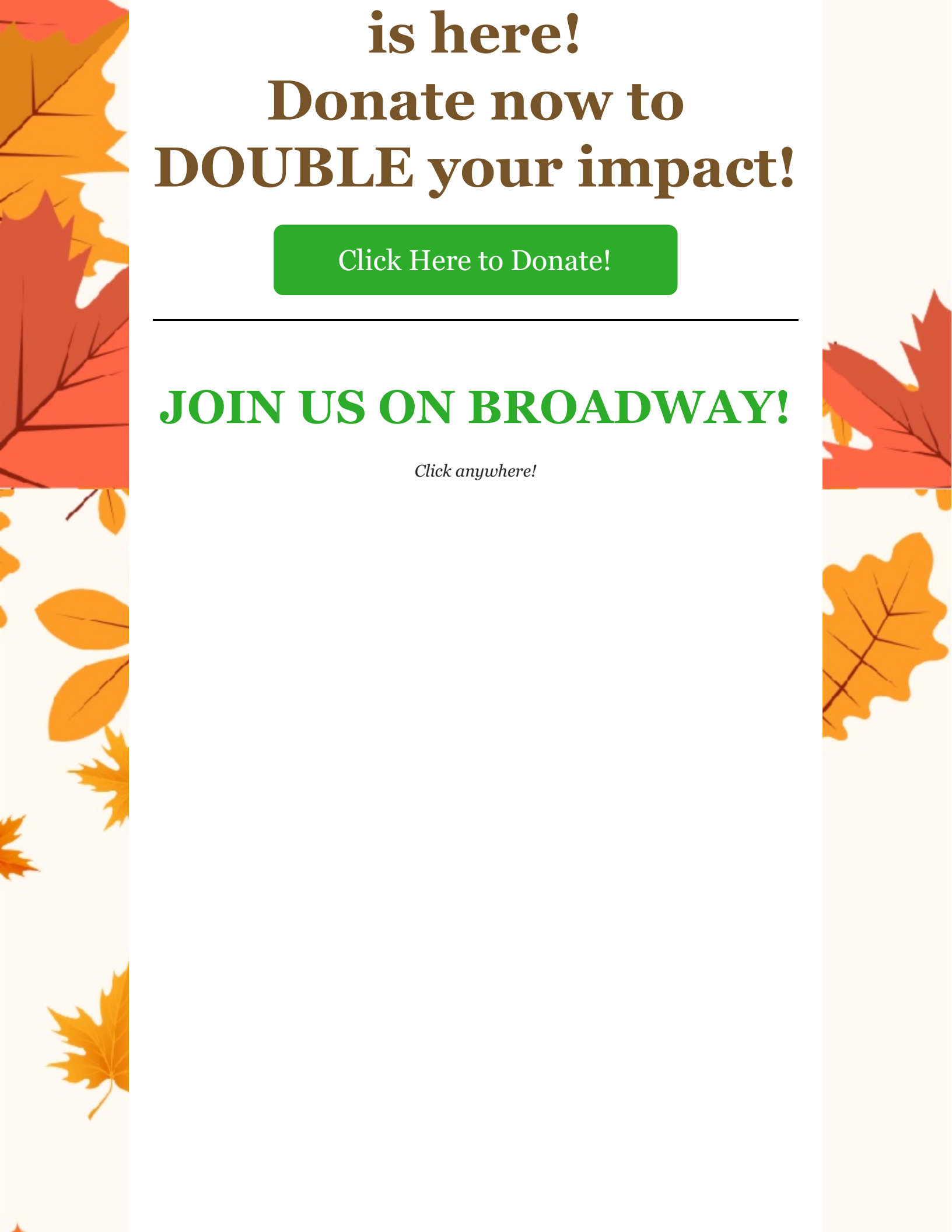
*Click anywhere!*



Donate Seats OR RSVP!

**#GivingTuesday**





**is here!**  
**Donate now to**  
**DOUBLE your impact!**

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**JOIN US ON BROADWAY!**

*Click anywhere!*



Kids with a Cause™  
Children's Theatre Company

## GALA BENEFIT PERFORMANCE

### IT'S A WONDERFUL WORLD: THE LOUIS ARMSTRONG MUSICAL

In celebration of Kids with a Cause: Children's Theater Company's (CTC) 25th year anniversary and Black History Month, we cordially invite you to join us for a special **Benefit Performance** of the highly anticipated Broadway musical **A Wonderful World: The Louis Armstrong Musical**.

CTC is also proud to have been selected as the charity partner with the **four-time Tony Award-winning** producers of this remarkable production about the life of this legendary man.

**SAT. FEB 8 & SUN. FEB 9**

You are cordially invited to  
to the much anticipated *Broadway Show*

**A WONDERFUL WORLD**  
The **LOUIS ARMSTRONG** Musical

**Saturday February 8 @ 8pm**

Studio 54 @ 254 W. 54 St. New York, NY 10019

**VIP / Dinner Reception 4-6pm**

Location TBA  
by Invitation Only

**Sunday Symposium with Dr. Joy DeGruy**

**Sun. Feb 9: 1-3pm**  
Location TBA

*The Kimberly*  
A Boutique  
Suite Hotel

**Four Star - Forbes Recommended - Diamond Rating**  
Exclusive CTC Rate of \$199



[www.childrenstheatercompany.org](http://www.childrenstheatercompany.org)



[childrenstheatercompany@gmail.com](mailto:childrenstheatercompany@gmail.com)



[www.henryboxbrownthemusical.com](http://www.henryboxbrownthemusical.com)



212-633-6629



[www.instagram.com/childrenstheaterco](https://www.instagram.com/childrenstheaterco)



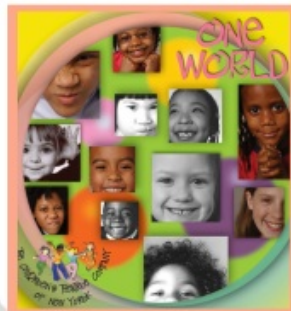
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PHOTO CREDIT BY: ERIC MEREDITH GOUDON



CHILDREN'S THEATER CO.



CHILDREN'S THEATER CO.

## PROMO REELS



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# CTC JACKSON NEWS

Our award-winning Children's Theater Company's "Kids with a Cause" program continued to grow and make a meaningful impact in each of our satellite branches during 2024. We are a community-driven program, made possible through the generosity of donors, grant-makers, volunteers, and - most especially - the efforts of our Local Advisory Board members. Mrs. Patricia Beasley is one of the foundational members of our Jackson, Tennessee Advisory Board.

*Click below to watch her powerful testimony that CTC's "Kids with a Cause" program was "God sent to the community."*



*Click below to see Mr. Antonio Smith leading CTC Jackson's Spiritual Empowerment Camp in action!*





Beautify

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[Click Here To Donate!](#)

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## CTC PENSACOLA NEWS

*Click below for CTC Pensacola Parent Testimonial Video!*



"CTC recognizes that the kids are influencing each other, each age group aspires to be in an older group and can find a pathway to service. This directly promotes the beginning of leadership skills."

*- Mrs. Ashley, CTC Pensacola Parent*

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## **CTC "KIDS WITH A CAUSE" CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF BUILDING CHARACTER ON STAGE**

Now 25 years old, CTC is more engaged than ever! We are expanding nationwide with new branches in cities like Jackson, TN, Pensacola, FL, Flint, MI and more, and our production of Henry Box Brown has been optioned to open ON BROADWAY in 2025! To CELEBRATE our last 25 Years and what is next to come, we are asking all our earliest believers, old and returning families, co-workers, alumni, friends, fans, and followers who have supported us over the years to "LIKE US" and "FRIEND US" on our socials at:

**CTC FB:** [The Children's Theater Company](#)

CTC IG: [@childrenstheaterco](#)  
HBB FB: [Henry Box Brown: The Musical](#)  
HBB IG: [@henryboxbrown\\_themusical](#)

Come learn more about how you can get involved and be a real part of what you have helped build. Without you we would never have lasted this long.

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Click Here to Donate!

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## PLAYERS & PROTAGONISTS



### Partners & Collaborators (Jackson, TN)

- **AKA Sorority**, Monique Merriweather
- **City Commissioner**, Tony Black
- **Councilman**, Johnny Dodd
- **Eric Beasley Foundation**, Patricia Beasley
- **Historic First Baptist Church**, Pastor William Watson
- **Jackson Arts Council**, Morgan White, Delita Johnson
- **JY Spiritual Empowerment Program**, Antonio Smith
- **Lane College, Jackson TN (HBCU)**, Dr. Hampton, President
- **Lane College, Jackson TN (HBCU)**, Dr. Wolford, Prof. Sociology
- **Love Your Block**, Abby Palmer, Elvia Trejo
- **Media: Jackson Post News**, Brandon Shields, Host / Segment Producer
- **Media: WHML Gospel Radio**, Duane Cherry, Executive Producer
- **NED McWherter Cultural Art Center**, David McCall, Executive Director
- **NAACP**, Harrell Carter, President
- **Office of Mayor**, Scott Conger
- **Parks & Recreation**, Johnetta Black / Danielle Wade
- **SAACA**, Wendy Trice Martin, President
- **Salvation Army**, Bria Swaringam



- **Superintendent of School (JMCSS)**, Dr. Marlon King
- **United Way of West TN**, Matt Marshall, President
- **WNWS Radio**, Julie Cooke, Host

## The CTC-Jackson Advisory Board & Artistic & Education Partners:



- **Adam Crossley** (Character Ed)
- **Antonio Smith**, (JY Spiritual Empowerment)
- **Averri Anderson** (CTC STAFF; CTC Associate Producer)
- **Eric Dozier** (CTC LAB; Parent Cafe / Music Director)
- **Harrell Carter** (CTC LAB; NAACP)
- **Jef Canter** (CTC STAFF; Associate General Mgr)
- **Juliet Crossley** (Character Ed)
- **Lachesha Hendrix** (CTC LAB; Salvation Army; Choral & Speech)
- **Matthew Marshall** (CTC LAB; United Way of West TN)
- **Megan Hughes** (CTC STAFF: Regional Production Mgr)
- **Nadia Beard** (CTC LAB; JMCSS – Sr. Teaching Artist)
- **Patricia Beasley** (CTC LAB; Parent Cafe)
- **Penny Roberts-Cooper** (CTC LAB; JMCSS - Character Ed)
- **Tatonia Dunlap** (CTC LAB; Sr. Production Mgr)
- **Veronica Sesson** (JMCSS; CTC LAB; Sr. Teaching Artist)
- **Wendellyn Trice Martin** (CTC LAB; SAACA)
- **Will Adams** (Stage Manager)
- **Keith Davis** (Sr. Teaching Artist)
- **Keith Hendrix** (CTC Media)

## Partners & Collaborators (Pensacola, FL)

In Pensacola, Florida, the launch of a new chapter, supported by *Florida Power and Light* and the *Escambia Children's Trust*, marked a significant milestone in CTC's growth. Our partners and collaborators included:

- Equity Project Alliance, **Dr. Riley**
- Innisfree Hotels, **Rusty Branch**



- Escambia Children's Trust, **Tammy Greer**
- Dixon School, **Margo Long**
- Pensacola State College, **Dr. Meadows**
- PBS Theater – Pensacola, **Rameca Leary**
- Pensacola HS, **Autumn McConnico**
- Pensacola Symphony, **Sue Flanders**
- First City Arts Studios, **Bart Hudson**

## CTC PENSACOLA: Local Advisory Board Members:

- **James Crenshaw**, Sacred Heart Hospital
- **Meg Peltier**, Pensacola Chamber of Commerce
- **Brandon Williams**, Music Producer
- **Aaron Ball**, Media Producer
- **Jill Hubbs**, PBS Theater Pensacola
- **Ronetta Allen**, CTC Parent
- **Eric & Genevieve Dozier**, CTC Outreach



## Special thanks to the CTC HQ New York team, and staff; CTC Board and Advisors, Consultants and Benefit Committee:

- **Averri Anderson** (CTC Producer)
- **Elizabeth Herth** (CTC Advisory Board)
- **Eric Dozier** (CTC Music Director)
- **Hamid Samandari** (CTC Advisory)
- **Heidi Broumand** (CTC Advisory)
- **Jack Lenz** (CTC Advisory)
- **Jackie Eghrari** (Gala Benefit)
- **Jeff Albert** (Bahá'í Office of Education)
- **Jeff Bolding** (CTC Advisory Board)
- **John Woodall** (CTC Advisory)
- **Joy DeGruy** (HBB Advisory)
- **Judy Manocherian** (Gala Benefit)
- **Karen Anderson** (CTC Advisory)
- **Karen Blaine** (CTC Advisory)
- **Layli Miller** (CTC Consultant)
- **Melina Salifoski** (Sr. Producer and Regional Chapter Coordinator)
- **Megan Hughes** (CTC STAFF: Regional Production Mgr)
- **Mehr Mansuri** (CTC STAFF: Executive Artistic Director)
- **Michelle Chamblin** (CTC Advisory)
- **Nancy Nelson Ewing** (CTC Education Consultant; HBB Advisory Board)
- **Nancy Young** (Interim CTC STAFF: Development Director)
- **Niki Abrishamian** (HBB Advisory Board)
- **Paul Gee** (HBB Advisory Board)



- **Rose Perrier Tonic** (CTC Advisory Board)
  - **Roy Steiner** (CTC Consultant)
  - **Shahrzad Mirafsal** (Gala Benefit Committee)
  - **Stephanie Fawkes Fraser** (CTC STAFF: Interim Managing Director)
  - **Sue Sinclair** (CTC Advisory Board)
  - **William Davis** (CTC Advisory Board)
  - **William Smitty Smith** (HBB Advisory Board)
  - **Wynton St. Clair** (CTC Advisory Board)
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## The Children's Theater Company

**Mission:** The “Kids with a Cause: Children’s Theater Company”, a non-profit 501c3 organization, is rooted in the belief that through the magic of theater as a tool for moral reasoning, children and youth can become the voices of positive change and agents of healing in their communities. Inspired by the society-building principles of the Baha’i Faith, CTC believes that the highest form of artistic expression lies in its capacity to promote social good and foster positive change.

**Vision:** The Children’s Theater Company has a *social-justice imperative* at its core. Committed to a theater making model that intentionally builds inclusive and empowered communities, the program cultivates an understanding of the personal, cultural and spiritual forces that shape society. CTC’s musical experiences explore the theater’s power to impact diversity, to develop empathy and compassion for the human condition, and to allow us to learn from lives we’ve never lived.

**Background:** Serving over 4,000 children in underserved populations nationwide, CTC was founded in 1999 in New York City, and in 1989 in Los Angeles. The Children's Theatre Company is an award-winning educational theater organization and publisher of over 15 original and professionally recorded musicals designed to complement an anti-bias, ethical and social studies curriculum for children and youth k-12th grade.





Building Character Onstage™  
**Children's Theatre Company**



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Click Here to Donate!

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[www.childrenstheatercompany.org](http://www.childrenstheatercompany.org)



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